The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service offers news of labor and official information of matters of direct concern to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The movement they call organized labor is the universal, vital problem of the world.—Thomas Carlyle.

WHOLE NO. 1268 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1935 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 25, NO. 31

AFL Membership Has Increased Over One Million in 2 Years, Morrison Says

Praises Wagner Labor Disputes Act in Address Before New York Allied Printing Trades Convention—Sees Fear of Unemployment and Old-Age Poverty Banished by Federal Social Security Bill.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Elmira, N. Y.—Despite the fact that a huge army of workers have been unemployed the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have added over one million persons to their membership during the last two years, Frank Morrison, secretary of the Federation, declared in an address here before the thirty-ninth annual convention of the Allied Printing Trades Council of New York State.

He cited the Wagner-Connery National Labor Disputes Act as one of the most important legislative achievements in the history of organized labor in the United States and paid a tribute to President Roosevelt for the courage in urging the attention of Congress and the people generally on the subject of unemployment insurance and old-age pensions as contained in the Social Security Bill, which when approved by the President would banish to a very large extent the fear that prolonged unemployment and penury in old age have for working men and women.

39 Years Growth of Trade Unions

On the subject of trade union membership Mr. Morrison said:

"Thirty-nine years ago, when your organization was formed, the total membership of the American Federation of Labor was 264,825 members.

"I recall saying that if I were secretary when we reached the million mark I would feel that our one cause for success was overflowing. Yet we passed the million mark in 1902, the two million mark in 1914, the three million mark in 1919, and in 1920 our membership was 4,078,740.

"From that point the membership receded gradually from 1922 until 1933, when it reached the low point of 3,125,000. This was brought about by the changes made in industry from wartime to peacetime and also by the unemployment of millions of our workers in 1932. During the next two years tremendous efforts were made to manufacture machinery which was labor-saving, and labor-eliminating devices of all the new forms of production, so that hundreds of thousands of workers were displaced without seeming opportunity for re-employment.

"During the period of the NRA we have increased over a million members with fewer than ten to eleven million idle, and you know it is very difficult successfully to organize unemployed workers.

Visions Four Million Members

"The membership of our national and international organizations is gradually increasing, some by leaps and bounds. Half a dozen of our national and international organizations have shown very large increases. While the reported membership of the A. F. of L. for 1932 was 3,050,000 it is evident that we had had since 1916, the reported membership of all our affiliated organizations and local unions of June, 1935, was 3,149,324—over one million members increase over the average membership for 1932, notwithstanding that there were more than ten million people idle during that period.

"Everything points to a steady growth in membership, and I am certain that when we emerge from the deplorable conditions under which we have suffered during the past five years the A. F. of L. and affiliated unions will have a membership exceeding the wartime membership of over 4,078,740 members."

Believes Wagner Act Is Constitutional

In discussing the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act, which incorporates in the substantive law of the United States the right of self-organization of employes in industry for the purposes of collective bargaining, and provides methods by which the Government can safeguard that legal right, Mr. Morrison pointed out that the measure does not provide for either voluntary or compulsory arbitration nor deprive the workers the right to strike.

He said that while anti-union employers claim the act violates the Federal Constitution and declare they will seek to have it ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States, nevertheless, "leading legal authorities of the nation are of the opinion that the act is constitutional in every respect," and "the history of the relation to labor is that the act is now the law of the land, and enforceable in the courts of United States."

Tribute to Roosevelt and Wagner

Turning to protection of the masses from suffering imposed by unemployment during their old age and from poverty in old age, Mr. Morrison said:

"One of the things that I am thankful for, and I know that you are, is the fact that the Federal Government, headed by our courageous President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, is carrying into effect the supreme task of taking care of the old, unemployed and penniless," which would be achieved by the final enactment of the National Social Security Bill now pending for unemployment insurance and old-age pensions.

He said this measure, championed by Senator Wagner, was hung up in the conference committees of the House and Senate "on account of an amendment to the bill by Senator Clark to permit companies to run their own old-age pensions." He felt sure the measure as finally adopted would not contain the Clark amendment.

Predicts Economic Security for Masses

"For many years," Mr. Morrison added, "I have stated I would live to see the day when two years would be driven out of the mind of the average woman and children of our country—the fear of unemployment and the fear of old age when workers would be unable to follow their vocations and then become a charge upon the public, state or friends.

"I feel now that in a few days the Social Security Bill will be passed and signed by the President of United States, and with its passage it will banish those two fears from the minds of our people and bring happiness and contentment into the lives and homes of hundreds of thousands.

"I must not permit this opportunity to pass without a word of praise for the splendid work of Senator Wagner, of your State, in piloting this bill to its final passage as well as the Wagner Disputes Act."

TIMBER WORKERS WIN PAY BOOST IN 5 OREGON MILLS

1,200 Men Return to Jobs Under 40-Hour Week After Three-Months Strike—Retail Clerks Sign Up Seven Stores.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Portland, Oreg.—The Executive Board of the Timber Workers' Union here executed an agreement with the representatives of five large Portland sawmills by which 1,200 men who have been on strike for three months returned to work with higher wages, the 40-hour week and recognition of the principle of collective bargaining.

The agreement, which was ratified by members of the union, included the following mills: West Oregon, Clark, Wilson, Portland and the Jones Lumber Company.

In addition to the 1,200 men directly employed in the sawmills the settlement means the return to work of many men in logging camps and allied industries as soon as the mills get under way. The agreement is practically the same as the one which recently ended the strike in the Inman-Poulsen mill.

The Eastern and Western mills and the Southeast Portland mill, also hit by the strike, are still out of the union field. The former is operated by scabs, the latter is operated by scabs.

The mills at Dee, Oreg., and the Bridal Veil mill are also attempting to operate with non-union men. Union officials expect that the Timber Workers will, in short time, these four mills will sign an agreement patterned after the one which settled the trouble in the five Portland mills.

C. J. Hayes, business representative of the Portland Retail Clerks' Union, successfully negotiated union shop agreements with two large furniture stores, Cohn Bros. and Harman's Furniture and Piano Store, and with the Gallen-Kamp Company, which operates four shoe stores here.

SHELL UNION TECHNICAL ENGINEERS ORGANIZE UNION IN WOOD RIVER

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Wood River, Ill.—Joseph R. Kelahar, organizer for the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, furnished the Oil Workers Rosemund, president of the International Federations of Technical Engineers', Architects, and Draftsmen's Unions, whose headquarters are in the A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C., an application for a charter for the chemical and technical engineers employed by the Shell Oil Company at this place here.

Inclosed with the application was a copy of the agreement between the Shell Petroleum Corporation, the city and 14 international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, covering working agreements of the industry in this locality.

The agreement includes various subjects, such as absence of employes on union business, overtime, vacations, pay period and minimum wage rates, working hours, overtime, vacations, seniority rights.

In addition to providing for a federated comprehensive insurance plan for members of the union who deal with representatives of the employers, the agreement includes a comprehensive system covering routine submission of grievances and also provision for any arbitration to prevent suspension of work. The various crafts already signed up contain specific stipulations which are particularly applicable to individual crafts.

This agreement has been in existence since May 1, and undoubtedly has had considerable bearing in occasioning the technical and chemical engineers employed in the Wood River plant to endeavor to secure similar advantages. They are to be congratulated upon proceeding along well established trade union lines.

It is hoped that other employes identified with the oil industry will awake to the advantages of dealing along organization lines, especially in view of the recently enacted Wagner bill which accords them all necessary legal protection in the exercise of such rights.

Official Call for First Convention Of United Automobile Workers Issued

Opens in Detroit August 26—Meeting Is Convened by Direction of A. F. of L. Executive Council—Green Will Attend—Dillon Stresses Convention's Importance.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Detroit, Mich.—F. J. Dillon, general organization director of the American Federation of Labor, by direction of President William Green of that organization, made public the call for the first constitutional convention of the United Automobile Workers of America which will open August 26 at 10 o'clock A. M. in the Spanish grill room of the Hotel Fort Shelby here. The convention will adjourn on or before August 31.

The call, which was addressed to the "officers and Members of Federal Labor Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, embraced in the workers' jurisdiction of the automobile parts industry," said the convention is convened "by direction of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of forming a National Union of Automobile Workers," adding: "The Federal Labor Unions established by the automobile manufacturing and automobile production industries will constitute the basis of the International union of automobile workers and will be merged into said International union when established."

Each Federal Labor Union of Automobile Parts Workers with a membership of 100 or less will be entitled to one delegate with an additional delegate for each additional 100 members or fractional part thereof, based upon the per capita tax payment to the American Federation of Labor for June, 1935.

Mr. Dillon, who in addition to being general organizer of the American Federation of Labor is chairman of the National Council of United Automobile Workers, announced that William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will attend the convention for the purpose of presenting the delegates a charter conveying to the automobile workers their rights, duties and responsibilities as an international union affiliated with the A. F. of L.

"This convention," Mr. Dillon added, "will undoubtedly constitute the most important gathering ever assembled of automobile workers. It will be historic because it will mark the inauguration of a new era of unity and solidarity dedicated to the task of serving and advancing the interests of the thousands of men and women engaged in the world's greatest industries."

It was announced that the Detroit office of the Workers Education Bureau of America is arranging a series of evening meetings at which leaders, delegates and visitors which will be addressed by outstanding educators, statesmen and labor leaders.

Smith Re-elected Secretary Hosiery Workers' Federation

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Philadelphia, Pa.—The annual convention of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers here re-elected by a large majority William Smith, secretary-treasurer of the organization. Mr. Smith's term of office has been the longest of any paid officer of the Federation. He was first elected in 1916 and has been kept in office continuously since that date.

Emil Rieve remains president, his term not expiring until next year.

11,000,000 Workers Are Still Jobless

A. F. of L. Unemployment Report Reveals Over Two Million Refused Jobs by Industry Are Temporarily Employed on Government Projects—Relief Rolls Include 19,250,000 Persons.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The United States is faced with the alarming fact that more than eleven million men and women, able and willing to work, are still kept in the jobless army by those who own and control American industry, declared William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in his statement on the current unemployment situation.

"The total number without work in industry in June," Mr. Green said, "exceeded 11,000,000. Of these 296,000 had work on PWA, 289,000 on CCC, and an average of 4,500,000 had relief work on the FERA work program each week." The total of these three groups temporarily employed on Federal projects is 2,289,000

All of them would be on the relief rolls if the Federal Government had not intervened and given them part-time employment.

Reduced Employment Gains

In addition the report points out that since last June, industrial employers have discharged over half a million more employes than during the similar period last year.

"Employment gains," the report said, "in the first half of 1935 have been considerably below those of last year. From January to June, 1934, industry created jobs for 1,601,000 persons, while in the corresponding period this year only 767,000 new jobs were created—less than half last year's record. This contract is particularly significant because in recent years employment gains have usually come in the first half of the year, while the last half has brought substantial losses.

Over 19,000,000 on Relief

On the extent of relief Mr. Green pointed out that relief rolls in May, the latest report, contained 6,165,000 cases, or 19,250,000 persons, including the 1,504,000 employed on the FERA work program, adding, "this is a decline of nearly 200,000 cases, or nearly 600,000 individuals, since April and a decline of 300,000 cases since the all-time peak in January, 1935."

Trade Union Jobless

On the number of trade unionists who are jobless and the importance of union membership Mr. Green said in his report:

"Trade union reports for the first half of July indicate considerable falling off of employment since June. This is normal in the summer season. Union records disclose a considerable summer period of about last year's proportions. The usual summer lessening of employment in the clothing industries, theaters and manufacturing is shown in the July figures, as well as the seasonal trades and printing industries layoffs.

Value of Union Unemployment Reports

"Owing to the excellent reporting of more than 2,500 unions with a membership of 2,500,000 these monthly records indicate accurately the trend of unemployment one month in advance of the figures reported by the Federal Government. Trade union reports can be counted on to show employment and unemployment. Therefore, it is significant that the union records for July indicate no greater increase in unemployment this summer than last. This is particularly important since the first half year showed a better record in creating jobs for the unemployed."

St. Helens, Oregon, Unions Set Up Central Labor Body

St. Helens, Oreg. (AFLNS).—Ben T. Osborn, secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, installed a Central Labor Council here. It is expected that in addition to the unions in this city, those in the neighboring towns of Columbia County will affiliate with the new central body. A short time ago there were no unions in St. Helens. Now it is one of the best organized towns of its size in the Northwest.

Senate Passes Walsh Wage Bill Banning Kick-Back Schemes on Government Work

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Senate passed and sent to the House of Representatives the Walsh wage bill making it illegal for contractors on Government projects to use various "kick-back" schemes under which thousands of employes have been compelled to "kick back" into the employers' pockets a considerable portion of their pay as the price charged for their jobs.

The Bacon-Davis bill, enacted several years ago, prescribed that contractors should pay employes the prevailing wage on all Federal projects.

A year's investigation by the Senate Commitee on Education and Labor disclosed that many contractors have victimized their employes through direct and indirect violations of the Bacon-Davis prevailing wage law by various ramifications of the "kick-back" method. To prevent these fraudulent practices the Senate Labor Committee recommended and the Senate passed the Walsh bill which includes provisions for:

Guarantee payment of local prevailing wage to all laborers and mechanics on Federal construction in excess of $2,000 "where not in conflict with existing law." The Bacon-Davis Act applied to Federal building construction in excess of $5,000.

Provide predetermination of the prevailing wage on contracts so contractors will know labor costs in advance.

Withhold payments to contractors to reimburse workers not paid prevailing wages.

Coordinate departmental activities so that the Government will not continue contracting with those who disregard the law.

Provide remedies for workers victimized by forced rebates by allowing them the same right of action against contractors as is now conferred by the bond statute on persons furnishing labor and materials where there are no funds to withhold for reimbursement.

It is expected the bill will be favorably reported by the House Labor Committee and will be immediately applicable to all contract work under the $4,800,000,000 work relief fund.

Seamen's Board Holds Scharrenberg's Expulsion from Coast Local Illegal

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Executive Board of the International Seamen's Union of America, in session here, ruled that the expulsion of Paul Scharrenberg, editor of the Seamen's Journal and secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, by the Sailors' Union of the Pacific which is a part of the Seamen's Union, was "unconstitutional and void."

The charges on which the Sailor's Union, whose headquarters are in San Francisco, based the expulsion allegied that Mr. Scharrenberg called the strike of the oil tanker masters without submitting the issue to a membership vote; fostered a company union and expressed a wish for a war with Japan for the benefit of the seamen. Mr. Scharrenberg appealed the action of the San Francisco Union to the Seaman's Executive Board.

The text of the decision, certified by V. A. Olander, secretary of the Executive Board of the International Seamen's Union of America, follows:

"The Executive Board of the International Seamen's Union of America has given careful and thorough consideration to the evidence and documents submitted in the case of the appeal of Paul Scharrenberg against the action of a meeting of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific in declaring him expelled from membership.

"The Executive Board hereby sustains the appeal of the said Paul Scharrenberg and decides that the said Scharrenberg and decides that the expulsion declaration against him is illegal and therefore null and void and that he is a full member in good standing in the Sailors' Union of the Pacific and the International Seamen's Union of America of which said Sailors' Union is a part.

"The alleged expulsion is illegal and of no effect for the reasons that the so-called charges against the said Paul Scharrenberg do not warrant or justify any action against him under the laws of the Union.

"The proceedings against the said Paul Scharrenberg were clearly unconstitutional and void."

40-Hour Week Bill for 235,000 Postal Service Employes Is Passed by Senate

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The many years' struggle of over 200,000 civil service post office employes for the 40-hour week in place of the present 44-hour week advanced another step nearer definite action when the Senate passed the 40-hour measure already enacted by the House of Representatives.

The bill covers around 235,000 employes, including substitute clerks, clerks, railway mail clerks, letter carriers and others.

Officials of the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Federation of Post Office Clerks and the railway Mail Association declare the shorter hours measure will provide work for several thousand substitute postal employes who are now trying to eke out an existence on part-time employment.

Postmaster General Farley stated in his report postal receipts will be short of the annual expense of the shorter work week, the cost of which he estimated would total about $21,400,000.

The bill as reported by the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads provided that railway postal clerks required to work in excess of 46 hours per week shall be paid at the basic rate of pay for the granted compensatory time at their option, for such overtime.

Those unions whose members are affected by the measure claim this provision will be a big step nearer definite action for these employes, especially under the constant introduction of faster schedules.

The bill also provides equitably for them Senator Byrns of South Carolina, author of the measure which the Senate adopted, stipulating that the clerks shall be paid in cash at the annual rate of pay or granted compensatory overtime, at their option, for hours in excess of an annual misery of 44,000 miles on lines $50 miles or less in length or in excess of 50,250 miles on lines over 800 miles in length.

The Byrns amendment was opposed by Chairman McCarl of the Post Office Committee, who said it did not have the approval of the Post Office Department. The House version of the railway clerks provision in the House bill. The Byrns amendment and other amendments adopted by the Senate to the House bill will be threshed out in the conference committee appointed to adjust the differences in the House and Senate measures.

Rochester Lithographers Locked Out By Todd Company in Wage Rate Dispute

Building Trades Refuse to Work on Works Progress Administration Projects for "Security Wages."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Rochester, N. Y.—Organized labor's fight for decent wage standards against the aggressive attitude of anti-union fronts in Rochester. The Lithographers' Union maintained effective picketing of the Todd Company plant in a wage rate dispute, and the Building Trades Council, representing 13 unions and 5,000 workers, went on record as refusing to work for less than the prevailing wage rate on any of the Works Progress Administration projects.

Seven Rochester lithographing firms signed union agreements for a minimum wage of $1 an hour. The Todd Company, which manufactures check protectors and checks, refused to sign the agreement and finally locked out all of its employes who belong to the Lithographers' Union. The Todd company operates on a base rate of 69 cents an hour with a point system bonus, which brings the average rate to 83 cents an hour. In addition to the $1 minimum rate the union asked the abolition of the point system.

Union officials claim that the local daily papers printed advertisements of the company for men to take the place of discharged union operatives, but that advertisements by the union stating that a lockout existed were refused.

The building trades strenuously object to the WPA wage rates for the building trade crafts, which range from $55 a month for laborers to $65 for inside electricians, $61 for skilled and $94 for technicians on a 40-hour week basis. Union men claim these rates are much below the prevailing wage rate of $1 an hour for skilled mechanics and that they will not cut the union schedule.

Striking Bookbinders and Pressmen Win Union Shop and Wage Increase from Ginn & Company

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Cambridge, Mass.—The 16 weeks' struggle of 270 bookbinders and pressmen employed by Ginn & Company, nationally known textbook publishers of this city, was settled by an agreement providing for the recognition of the unions concerned, the five-day, 40-hour week in place of the former 44-hour week and an increase in wages estimated to range from 5 to 10 per cent.

The agreement was negotiated for the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, Printing Pressmen's Assistants' Union No. 23 and Cambridge Bookbinders' Union No. 67.

Under the terms of the pact there will be no discrimination against union members returning to work, with the provision that all of the striking employes will be employed by December 1 and that three-fourths of them shall be employed by August 15.

The company agrees to restore 1919 hourly rates of pay by March 1, 1936. Three-fifths of the difference between current and 1929 rates shall be added to current wage rates on January 1, 1936, and the remaining two-fifths shall be restored on March 1. It is estimated that the restoration of the 1929 hourly rates will give the bookbinders an increase of from 5 to 10 per cent. There is also a provision guaranteeing a time-and-a-half for overtime work.

Joseph Padway, counsel for one of the four stipulates that differences of opinion arising under the contract shall be referred to a board of arbitration, one member representing the union, one company member representing Ginn & Company and these two to select the third member. The decisions of the board of arbitration are binding on both parties.

The agreement was negotiated by John B. Haggerty, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, assisted by Vice President Hugh Marks and Business Representative John Connolly of that organization, and Joe Dart, business representative of the Boston Pressmen's Union. Ginn & Company was represented by Henry B. Hilton, chairman of the board, and Harold M. Jones, plant manager.

A. F. of L. Brands As False Report Of Labor Scarcity in Metal Trades

Survey Shows Gross Inaccuracy Of National Industrial Conference Board's Claim of Skilled Workers Shortage.

9,000 Union Metal Workers Out Of 42,000 Are Jobless—Discrimination Against Trade Unionists Is Charged.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The complete inaccuracy of the report by the National Industrial Conference Board that a shortage of skilled labor in the metal trades exists was made by the American Federation of Labor in a statement summarizing the results of a survey of the employment situation in the metal trades which the Federation instituted to shoot the sunlight of truth through the canard, which was carried in a recent pamphlet issued by the Board entitled: "Wanted: Skilled Labor."

The new pamphlet stated that 287 of the Board's member plants in the metal industries reported a shortage of 1,193 skilled workers as against 7,767 that reported shortages of 7,767 if the plants were operating at capacity.

These figures were inconsistent with large numbers of unemployed workers in the trades, the Federation's affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, which reported that out of 42,000 skilled workers in the metal industries 9,600 were Jobless from April to June. The Federation therefore made a nation-wide survey to test the accuracy of the Conference Board's report.

Unemployment Among Machinists

The situation is greatest among all-around machinists, tool and die makers, special machine operators and molders, according to the Conference Board," the A. F. of L. statement said. "Out of a majority of these unions 738 at present, or 4,467 in all, if the plants were working full capacity—are in trades under the jurisdiction of the International Association of Machinists, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"It president, Arthur O. Wharton, states that in the month of May this year 25,000 unemployment stamps were issued to members of this union who have been out of work for one month or more. Of these, the large majority are machinists. Reports from the other trades in which the Conference Board claims a shortage.

The president of Mr. Wharton also states that on numerous occasions employers have made requests to the NRA for a lengthening of the hours of labor because they could not secure skilled mechanics.

"These claims were immediately investigated by the International Association of Machinists, and employers desiring skilled in the work specified, applied for jobs at the plants claiming a shortage of skilled men.

"In almost every instance," states Mr. Wharton, "the members of our organization were told by the employers with firms which claimed they were unable to secure skilled workers, were advised that no skilled men were needed."

TEACHERS' UNION CHARTERS 165 LOCALS IN TWO YEARS

Annual Convention Meets in Cleveland on August 26—Organization Has 30,000 Members.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Chicago, Ill.—Florence Curtis Hanson, secretary of the American Federation of Teachers, reports that between June, 1933, and May, 1935, the Federation chartered 165 locals, which is the largest number ever issued in the history of the organization. Pointing out that this unprecedented growth in the union movement among class room teachers "is stimulated by conditions arising out of the business depression but not caused by it," Miss Hanson adds:

"The active membership is about 30,000, forming an aggressive nucleus for protecting the interest of the class room teacher. Locals are found in 26 states spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific with several locals already active for the first time. The movement has developed because of the inadequacy of the conventional plans of the old professional organizations.

"Teachers are realizing that the school situation is a national problem. They are realizing that hope for a solution must be found in their administration but with themselves. They are realizing that the school system has taught them—that it is group action which is most effective today and that no one group standing by itself can win it a struggle so vital to all and that is why affiliation with the American Federation of Labor with its long history of active and intelligent support of public education."

The nineteenth annual convention of the Federation will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, the week of August 26. The main topics before the convention will be financial support of the school and intellectual freedom for teachers and the relationship between educators and their pupils. These subjects will be discussed leaders.

Columbus Meat Cutters Wage Firm Fight Against Anti-Union Packer

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Columbus, Ohio.—The Columbus Federation of Labor at a special meeting voted unanimously to give 100 per cent support to Meat Cutters' Local Union 576 and Truck Drivers' Local Union 414 in their strike against the Columbus Packing Company which was declared on April 4 following refusal of company officials to renew a union shop agreement that had been in effect for a year and a half which the management had declared "highly satisfactory."

The Federation of Labor also authorized the creation of a special assessment of $1 per week on the salaries of all members of affiliated labor here to be used as a "war chest" in prosecution of the strike.

The walkout took place when the packing company refused to accept the demands of their employes for demanding a union shop and wage adjustment which would have corrected the $5 to $7 weekly pay average of employes.

The present major point of controversy is the refusal of packing company officials to agree to recall the strikers on a strict plant seniority basis, which would mean that the oldest in point of years, the remainder of whom would be placed on a preferential list to be employed as vacancies occur.

The company flatly refuses any form of collective bargaining with the union in terms, which includes retaining strikebreakers on the pay roll, a non-union shop and rehiring of strikers only as vacancies occur.

Officials of the two unions concerned placed formal charges before the National Labor Relations Board at Washington in which it was alleged the packing company had violated provisions of the Wagner-Connery National Labor Relations Act, recently passed by Congress and signed by President Roosevelt.